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Country Lane By Lillian Collier Gray

houses have their vantages and disadvantages. One of living. the advantages is that they make it quite possible and easy to have a house party. A house party can be fun, particularly when the people who come are all very congenial and able to enjoy the company of footlights. These lamps are strappeach other. I've just been having ed to the policeman's right foot. such a party—in fact, it is still going ordered that mounted police wear on, and this column is being written near the stirrup, and shine a white before they get up. Well, one guest light in front and a red light in the has got up and taken her departure rear. on the early train, in order to be ready to run off again tomorrow to a convention in Montreal. But the or were until this clatter of the Skinny men, women type-writer started. They may now be wondering why on earth they haven't a more considerate hostess. The hostess has been up for hours, feeding a flock of ravenous chickens and doing up other chores. Which is the reason why the hostess that sounds complicated the explanation is that the only man of bodies. They thank the special vigorthe family is away for the weekend, but since someone has to do vitamin Br,, calcium, enrich blood, im-"chores", the hostess is at home. Knowing she must stay at home, she decided to have as much fun as possible, and invited six friends, all weight. Costs little. New "get acquainted" size only 60c. Try famous Ostrex women of course, for the week-end. Tonic Tablets for new vigor and added Four came, and four seems to be pounds, this very day. At all druggists. just a comfortable number to get

It's a particularly happy coincidence that every one of these four guests are writers. The two who couldn't come write, too. But the names of the four who are here are quite well-known to the reading public. On Friday evening the first two arrived. Jane's name is known from coast to coast because she writes a very fine weekly religious column for the church page of one of our big city dailies. She is also known as a public speaker on the platform and in the pulpit of many places. Since last September she has fulfilled sixty-five speaking engagements, which, we think, must be something of a record. Jane works too hard for her own good, and Saturday morning was just so weary we made her stay in bed all day. She is still getting a good deal of rest, but in between rest periods is carrying us up to the heights with the magnetism of her radiant personality. Grace comes with Jane. Farm Forumites, many of them, know Grace, and in this column read about her a few weeks ago. It's easy to see she and Jane would be congenial. Yesterday afternoon, Clara and Jean arrived. Clara, while she is to some extent physically handicapped, more than makes up for that inconvenience intellectually and spiritually. You may have read her books. She is the author of two novels, "Song of Zion" and "Open Windows", and is working on a third. She also has three books of poetry to her credit, and as a speaker and soloist of disinction, she is well-known. Yesterday afternoon she read us some of her poetry and sang for us, and how everyone did enjoy it. Then there is Jean, "the baby" of us all, and the one who keeps us laughing until the tears come. Jean works on a newspaper and apparently does an excellent job, for last week she got a raise in pay that was completely unexpected. Nice kind of surprise! Jean also writes poetry and stories. One of her poems "made" the pages of Canada's national poetry magzine in a recent issue. You have to be fairly good to get into Canadian Poetry Magazine. Jean is also a musician, and plays Clara's accompaniments on the piano very sympathetically, when Clara isn't

playing her own. Since it isn't often one gets so many writers and musicians (Jane plays the piano and violin, also) together under one roof, we invited in a local writer of note yesterday afternoon. She enjoyed meeting the others and they enjoyed meeting her. I, of course, am enjoying the whole business to the full, to the extent of almost forgetting to feed the chickens. I do remember to feed the guests, and in no time at all they have the dishes all washed up and other little jobs done. I've

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concluded a house party is ideal, not only because of the social enjoyment, but also because many hands make light work. Of course the greatest satisfaction comes from the fellowship, and each guest has so much to contribute to the fellowship which is distinctly her own. I am going to feel regretful when tomorrow is over, for I fear the visitors will all have flown back to their own little corners, the man of the family will also have returned, the chickens will return to his tender care, and I shall pick up the dropped tasks of house-cleaning and gardening, and go back to them with fresh "vim and vigour". There is nothing like stimulating and inspiring friends to pep one up and add a zest to the every-dayness of

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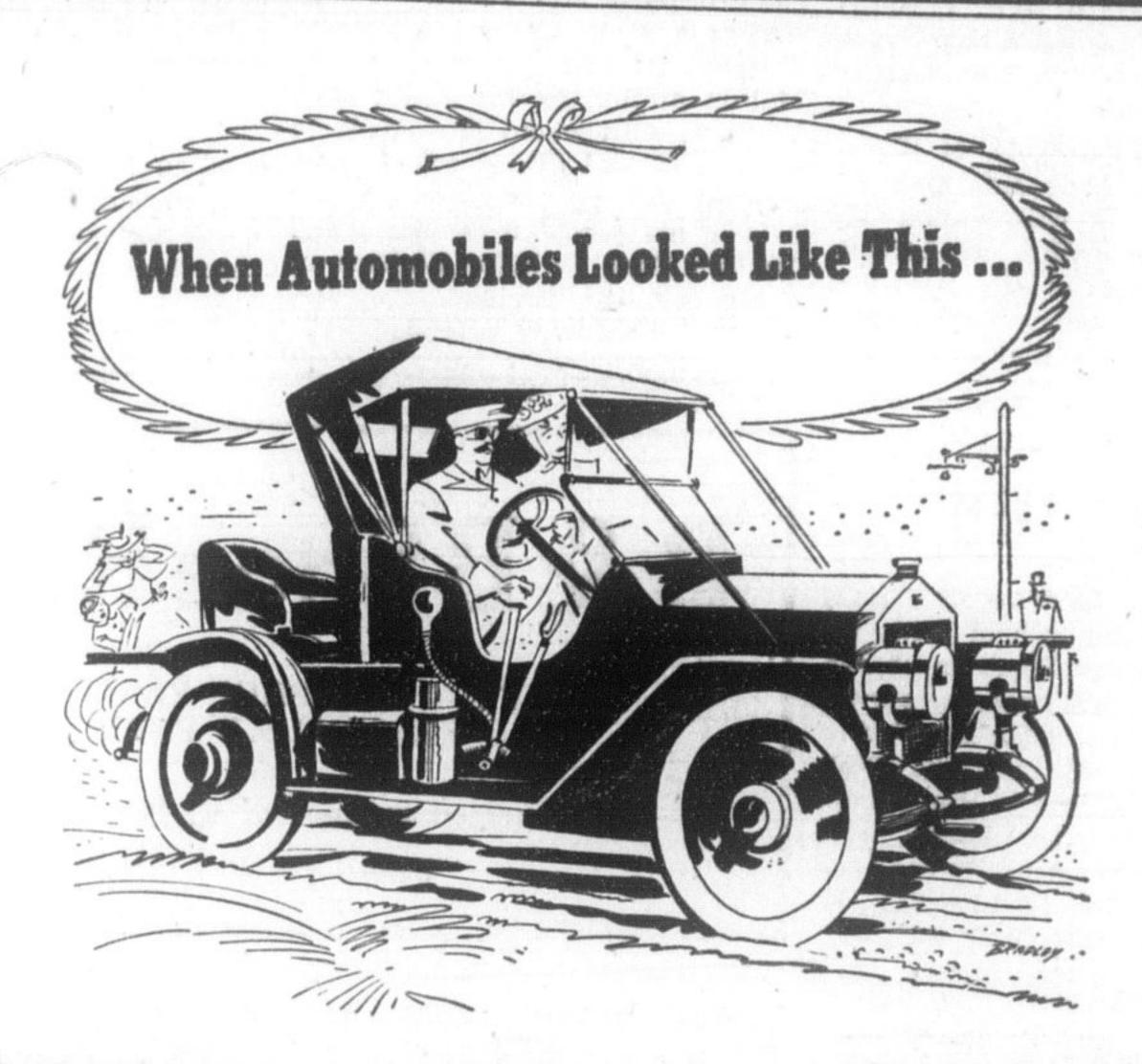
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